MARVEL COMICS
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HULK
PITT
BY
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&
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HAVE YOU EVER MET SOMEONE...
...AND TAKEN AN INSTANT DISLIKE TO THEM?
THERE ARE OTHERS, THOUGH, WHO CONSIDER THAT THEORY MERE FANTASY. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE HERE AND NOW.
REALITY.
THERE ARE SOME WHO BELIEVE THAT WE MOVE IN KARMIC CIRCLES THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, ENCOUNTERING THE SAME SOULS REPEATEDLY.
THAT WHEN WE REACT NEGATIVELY TO SOMEONE... WE ARE RECALLING ANIMUS LEFT FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE.
AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE TIMES WHEN FANTASY AND REALITY OVERLAP. THOSE TIMES ARE CALLED...

...THEY CHARGE.
RAAARRRHHH!
UNHHH!

GURROKKK!
EYUNHHH!
ARHHHH!
HA!!
HAAARHH!
THE CHILD SEEKS TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF THE TRIBE'S MASTER.
BUT HIS ELDER BROTHER, WISELY, STOPS HIM. FOR THE ELDER'S GRIP ON REALITY IS FIRM, AND HE KNOWS THAT--WERE THE CHILD TO TRY AND INTERVENE--HIS CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WOULD BE NON-EXISTENT.

Two creatures, with no names that any would comprehend.
Fighting a battle of such length, violence and ferocity...
...that it will imprint in the racial memory of humanity.
It will inspire countless variations in myth and legend.
And cause many an uneasy night for people who will awake with no clear recollection of what they've "remembered."
They can only pull their covers tightly around themselves... and try to fall back to sleep.
And fail.

RAAARRRRHHHH
THE CHILD REALIZES, A MOMENT BEFORE THE OTHERS, WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. FEELS THE BUILDING HEAT, SENSES THE LOINS OF THE EARTH WRITHING, ABOUT TO RELEASE...
...AND... INSANELY...
...SMILES.
AS IF HE CONSIDERS IT SOMEHOW...
...FITTING.

PITTSDALE UNIVERSITY...
PITT
GO PITT
THIS IS IT!
WE LOVE PITT!
GO PITT
'CAUSE PITT DON'T EVER TAKE NO
PRISONERS!
"WHAT AN EXCITING LIFE YOU LEAD, MR. JONES!
"IT'S FUNNY...AND PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS WRONG...
"BUT WITH EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU... AND ALL THE TIMES I'VE SEEN YOUR TALK SHOW, WELL, FOR SOME REASON...
SIDEKICK
SIDE KICK
PREHISTORIC LIFE
"...I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TALLER, BULKIER SOMEHOW. I GUESS THE REALITY DOESN'T ALWAYS MESH WITH THE FANTASY, EH?"

"SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE. IT'S HOMECOMING, ANYWAY...
GO PITT
"...LITTLE TIMMY HAS READ YOUR BOOK SEVERAL TIMES SINCE HE'S ARRIVED. SINCE YOU WERE IN THE AREA ON A PROMOTIONAL TOUR, WE THOUGHT YOU COULD GIVE US A TEENSY HELP."
ONE OF OUR CASEWORKERS, DARLA MILLER, HAS BEEN WORKING WITH HIM. I THINK TIMMY HAS A CRUSH ON HER.
BUT HE'S STILL RATHER TIGHT-LIPPED.
AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE COMES FROM, MRS. RIGGS?
NONE. HE JUST...SHOWED UP IN A PLAYGROUND ONE DAY WITH SOME WILD STORY. POLICE BROUGHT HIM HERE TO THE ORPHANAGE.
THE "WILD STORY" BEING...?
THAT HE WAS BEING PURSUED BY AN ODDLY COLORED MONSTER NAMED "PITT."
I SURMISE HE GOT THE NAME FROM A LOCAL SIGN.
IN ANY EVENT, I THOUGHT YOU AND HE MIGHT HAVE COMMON GROUNDS.
SO WHERE IS HE?
UPSTAIRS, BUT...BEFORE YOU GO, WELL...
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULDN'T MIND...?
AUTOGRAPHING A COPY OF SIDE-KICK? HAPPY TO.
I HOPE THIS DOESN'T COME ACROSS AS GUSHING, BUT...WELL...
YOU'RE ONE OF THE MORE EXCITING THINGS TO HIT PITTSDALE.
SIDE KICK

UNREALITY TWISTS AND TURNS AROUND HIM, FOLDING BACK UPON ITSELF.
AND SEARED INTO HIS MIND IS THE RECOLLECTION OF AN ANGRY CHILD...A CHILD APPARENTLY CAPABLE OF BENDING REALITY TO HIS VERY WHIM. A CHILD WHO SCREECHES...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE WERE EVER FRIENDS! I DON'T WANT YOU IN MY LIFE!
I WANT SOMETHING REAL! NORMAL!
I WANT A MOM! AND MOST OF ALL...
...I WANT TO BE AS FAR AWAY FROM YOU AS I CAN!

C'MON, SUN. DON'T MOVE.
CRUD.
HAD TO GO AND WRECK IT.
FOR ME, HUH? FOR DARLA? JUST CUT ME A BREAK. THE LIGHT'S SO PERFECT, RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE. SO JUST STAY RIIIIGHT WHERE YOU--
STORY OF MY LIFE. THINGS ARE GOING ALONG GREAT, AND THEN STUFF HAPPENS, LIKE...THE EARTH'S ROTATION... AND...
ENGAGEMENTS
I MUST BE NUTS.
HOW COULD I HAVE SAID "YES"? IT'S SO... NOT ME. MARRIAGE... COMMITMENT...A FAMILY...
...A FAMILY... GEEZ, IT'S ALL SO...SO...
...REAL.
OH MY GOD.

NOOOO!
FOR A BRIEF SECOND... ALL THAT IT TAKES... OTHERWORLDLY ENERGY SURGES AROUND DARLA...
...AND THEN A WORD IS RIPPED FROM PITT, EVEN AS HE IS RIPPED FROM BETWEEN WORLDS. THE WORD...
TIMMY!!
?
OOOF!!
12
MOTHER OF--!
DON'T MOVE!! DON'T MOVE OR WE'LL--
PITT HAD NOT, IN FACT, MOVED.
THE OUTCOME IS THE SAME.

HELP ME GOD HELP ME
LAST STAND ON PLANET EARTH
HI. YOU TIMMY?
I'M RICK. RICK JONES.
FOLKS HERE THOUGHT YOU COULD USE SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
NO THANKS. MY MOM'S COMING FOR ME.
WELL...UNTIL SHE DOES... HOWZABOUT YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS MONSTER THAT'S BEEN CHASING YOU.
SURE, LIKE YOU'LL BELIEVE ME--
KIDDO, YOU'D BE AMAZED WHAT I'D BELIEVE.
THE HULK'S THOUGHTS ARE USUALLY QUITE ORDERLY.
BUT THE SIGHT OF RICK JONES IS ENOUGH TO BRING ROARING BACK THE SORT OF TURMOIL HE'D HOPED HE'D LEFT BEHIND.

He had not sought Rick Jones, he had just happened to be outside the TV station when Jones emerged to a throng of admiring fans.
Then again, if Rick hadn't "just happened" to be out on that military testing range years ago...
...there would have been no Hulk.
M&M MEATS
The relative positives and negatives of that happenstance elude him at the moment.
He is thinking only of...a friend.
But even as he reflects on it, he tries to dismiss it.
What good is companionship of any kind, he wonders. Rick. Or even Betty. What good did she ever...
Oh. Right.
wh-what are you?!
remembering.

IS THAT...?
GOTTA BE! THE MONSTER THEY CALLED IN ABOUT FROM DOWNTOWN!
TAKE HIM!
WHO DID THAT?
WE... WE HAVE BACK-UP COMING!
GOOD
WELL?
YOU'LL NEED IT

STOP! I'M...
I'M WARNING YOU!
'PRECIATE IT.
BETTER STAY THERE.
YOU LOOK TIRED.

I HAD A MOM... AND A BROTHER... NEVER GOT ALONG WITH HIM, THOUGH... HE WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE YOU, RICK.
I KNOW BEING AN ORPHAN'S TOUGH, BUT YOU CAN DEAL WITH IT.
FIRST THING YOU GOTTA DO... AND I KNOW IT SOUNDS ROUGH...
FIRST THING IS, YOU GOTTA LET GO OF THE FANTASY THAT YOUR FOLKS WILL SHOW UP FOR YOU ANY SECOND, YOU...
TIMMY?
MA!!
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK!

SWAT
DISPATCH, WE'LL NEED MORE BACK-UP! THE MONSTER IS TEARING UP VALE AND VAN BUREN! OVER!
IMPOSSIBLE!! HE'S IN DELMARC PLAZA!
SWAT
I DON'T THINK I COPIED THAT, DISPATCH!
DELMARC PLAZA IS ACROSS TOWN! HE CAN'T BE THERE!
PITTSDALE
TIMMY IS NORTH OF HERE. I CAN SENSE HIM.
THE CONNECTION IN THIS WORLD IS EVEN STRONGER.
WHATEVER THIS WORLD IS.
NO MATTER.
ONLY TIMMY MATTERS.
ONLY TIMMY.

He watches them swarm, like gnats
They call themselves a SWAT team
Appropriate, since he can swat them easily.
Too easily
Something within him--boredom, anger, sadism--who can say...?
Whatever it is, it requires... amusement.

LOOK OUT!
WATCH IT!
COME ON.
COME ON!
IN... INCREDIBLE! HE TRASHED ALL THE CARS...BUT SPARED US!
DID SOMEONE SAY...
..."SPARE?"

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE!? I HEAR A TON OF SIRENS...
...BUT THERE'S NO FIRE OR ANYTHING.
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OR SOUND OF ANY OF THAT.
TIMMY, MAYBE YOU AND YOUR MOM SHOULD STAY PUT UNTIL...
HUH?
EXCUSE ME! I DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST WALTZ IN HERE AND TODDLE OUT WITH ONE OF THE RESIDENTS! THERE'S QUESTIONS GALORE LEFT OVER!
LIKE WHY YOU LEFT HIM, AND WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, AND WHY--
SHE'S MY MOM, RICK.
THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.
THAT'S...
...GOOD TO HEAR.

REPEATING, ALL UNITS, THE MONSTER HAS TORN UP DELMARC PLAZA AND IS NOW HEADING NORTH.
A MONSTER?
SOUNDS PRETTY SCARY.
ON ITS CURRENT COURSE, IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR PITTSDALE ORPHANAGE.
JONES.
THE HULK REALIZES THAT THIS UNKNOWN "MONSTER" HAS PROBABLY, FOR SOME REASON, ZEROED IN ON RICK JONES
WHY? DOESN'T MATTER. JONES ALWAYS HAD A WAY OF BEING A TROUBLE MAGNET
SO HE'S IN TROUBLE AGAIN, SO WHAT? HE'S BEEN NOTHING BUT A THORN IN THE HULK'S SIDE FOR YEARS.
HE'S
HE'S..
BLAST HIM.

THERE.
NOW STAY OUT...
...OF MY WAY.
NEED TO...FIND HIM.
HE CAN FEEL THE BOY'S PRESENCE, AS CLEARLY HE CAN FEEL HIS OWN HEART BEATING.
THE BOY WHO HAD SPENT HAPPIER TIMES WITH HIS GRANDFATHER.
THE BOY WHOSE LOSS OF INNOCENCE UNLEASHED A HIDDEN, TERRIBLE POWER.
THE BOY TO WHOM PITT IS FOREVER BOUND. THE BOY...
TIMMY.
THE FOREST IS THICK AROUND THEM AS THEY GO OFF THE BEATEN PATH, BEATING THEMSELVES A PATH

COME, TIMMY. I HAVE YOUR OLD ROOM WAITING FOR YOU, JUST LIKE...
=GASP=
PITT?
BRUCE!
I KNEW, SOONER OR LATER, YOU'D--
HE DOESN'T HEAR THE REST OF RICK'S GREETING. INDEED, HE BARELY REGISTERED THE BEGINNING OF IT.
HE GAPES...NOT AT THE BOY WITH THE COLD, FLICKERING EYES...
...BUT THE WOMAN.
INSTEAD HE CANNOT TEAR HIS EYES AWAY FROM THIS WOMAN...
...THE WOMAN WHO LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE...
...LIKE HER.

BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
THERE'S A...
...A MONSTER COMING...
PITT. IT'S GOTTA BE.
YOU HAVE TO HELP US. YOU...YOU WILL, WON'T YOU?
BRUCE?
WHAT...JUST HAPPENED?
IT'S LIKE HE SAW A GHOST!
HAVE YOU EVER MET SOMEONE...

...CONFLICT.
GO AWAY... OR I'LL HURT YOU.
TRY.
BLAM!

I LOVE YOU, TIMMY. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU, AND FROM NOW ON--
HOLD IT, LADY. THIS IS TOO WEIRD. YOU COME OUTTA NOWHERE...
...THIS "PITT" THING SHOWS UP, LIKEWISE OUTTA NOWHERE...
...THERE'S SOMETHING WAY BIZARRE GOING ON AROUND HE--
WHAM
UNFFFF!!!
COME ALONG, TIMMY. HE'LL BE FINE.
NOW DON'T DAWDLE.

I GAVE YOU A CHANCE, YOU INHUMANE--
YOU TALK "INHUMANITY" TO ME...
YOU COME BETWEEN ME AND THE ONLY LIVING THING THAT HAS MEANING TO ME.
THE BOY AND I ARE... BOUND TO EACH OTHER.
SUCH AS YOU... COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND A BOND OF THE SOUL.
YOU KNOW... NOTHING ...OF ME!
UHHHH!!

OF MY "SOUL"...
OF MY "BONDS"...OF THE WOMAN I LOVE...
...YOU KNOW... NOTHING.
OOOOFF!
URKHH!
I KNOW ALL...I NEED TO KNOW...
...AND THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

AWWW...MAN... I WISH THEY'D MAKE SOPTER BUILDINGS..
OH. HI.
TIMMY!
RAWWWWRRR!
RAWWRRR!
...
HEH
HOLD IT, MONSTRO! LEAVE THAT KID ALONE!
DOWN, JONES!
WHOA! THANKS FOR THAT COMFY, EIGHTH OF A SECOND WARNING!!

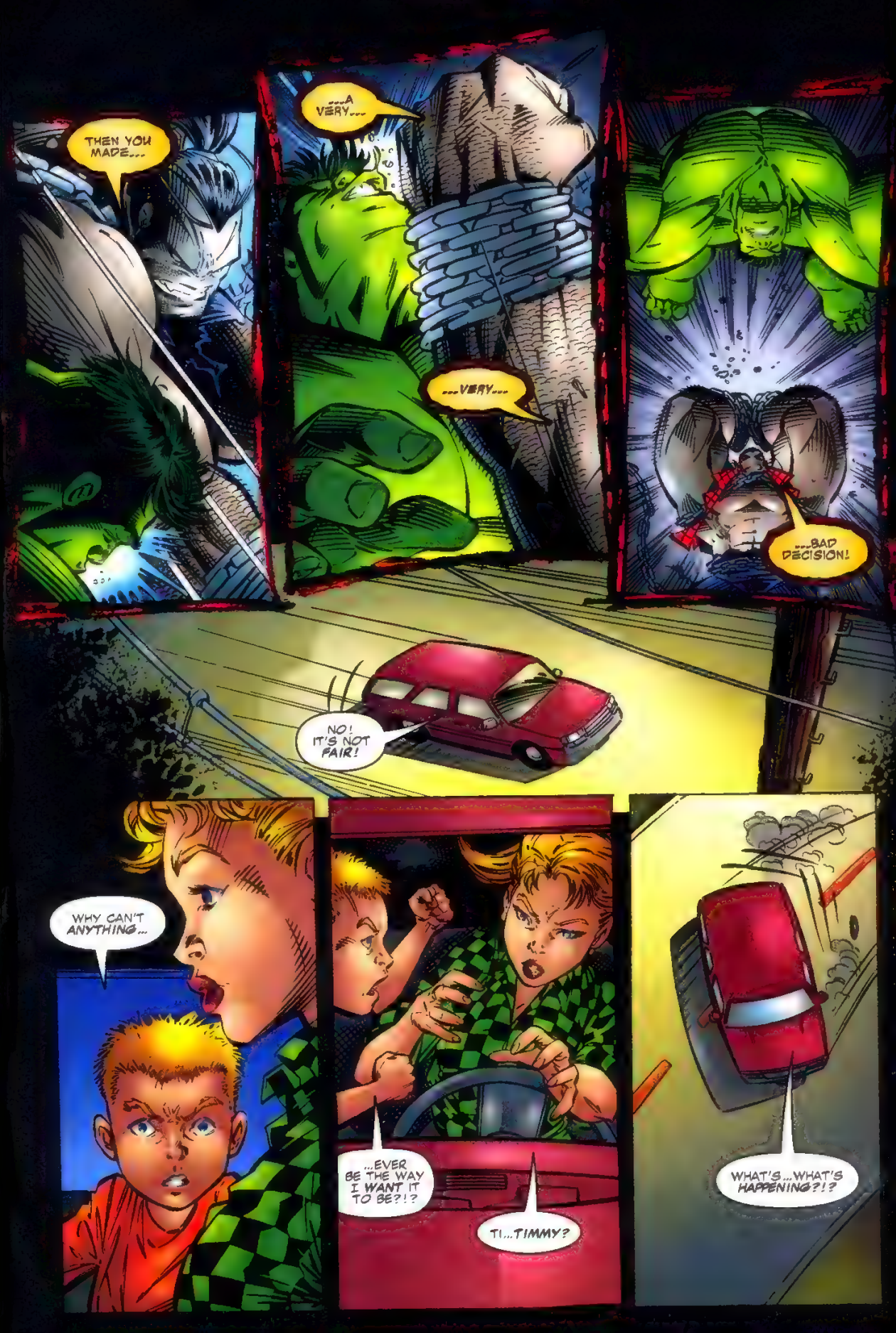
WHO.... ARE YOU....?
NO.... NEVER MIND....
IT DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT.
NO.
ALL THAT MATTERS...
...IS...
...THAT...
...I...
...WIN!

FOR A MOMENT...JUST ONE MOMENT...HE CONSIDERS HOLDING BACK THE NEXT BLOW...
...TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS OPPONENT.
AND THEN THE MOMENT PASSES
MR...MR. JONES... THAT WAS THE HULK, WASN'T IT?!?
YUP.
IS THERE ANY WAY TO STOP THEM?
NONE COME TO MIND.
THEN WHAT'LL WE DO?
CHARGE $5.99 TO WATCH IT?
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE GREAT, MOM!
IT'S GOING TO BE..
OH NO
NO, DON'T GO AWAY...BE THE WAY I WANT...

RICKEM RACKEM
RUCKUM RUCKUM
GET THAT BALL
AND REALLY
FIGHT!
RICKETY REG, KICK 'EM IN THE LEG!
RICKETY RAWLS, KICK 'EM IN THE
OTHER LEG!

THE PLAYERS, BALL AND GAME FORGOTTEN, DASH AT FULL STEAM FROM THE MONSTER AT THE ONE END...
..ONLY TO RUN AFOUL OF THE MONSTER AT THE OTHER.
THE HULK PAUSES A MOMENT TO SEE IF HIS EARLIER BLOWS HAD ANY EFFECT ON HIS OPPONENT.
THE HESITATION IS A MISTAKE.
AND THE ANSWER IS SELF EVIDENT.

WOMP!
POW!
WAM!
THIS WASN'T YOUR BUSINESS!
I DECIDE MY BUSINESS!


THEN YOU MADE...
...A VERY...
...VERY...
...BAD DECISION!
NO! IT'S NOT FAIR!
WHY CAN'T ANYTHING...
...EVER BE THE WAY I WANT IT TO BE?!?
TI...TIMMY?
WHAT'S...WHAT'S HAPPENING?!?

TIMMY... WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO YOURSELF...
...TO US?
DON'T YOU SEE...YOU CAN'T BRING MOM BACK... YOU CAN'T...
THE HULK HEARS PITT'S MONOLOGUE AND REALIZES THAT THIS IS NO ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE.
THAT THIS APPARENTLY ALIEN BEING IS WRACKED WITH APPARENTLY HUMAN TURMOIL...
...JUST AS HE, THE HULK, IS AT CORE, HUMAN BUT--EVER SO SLOWLY--IS MOVING FURTHER AWAY FROM HUMAN CONCERNS.
THE IRONY OF THAT IS NOT LOST ON THE HULK.
IT'S MERELY EXPLOITED.
ONCE UPON A TIME, IT MIGHT HAVE GIVEN HIM GROUNDS UPON WHICH TO BUILD COMMUNICATION.
BUT THESE ARE NOT THOSE TIMES, AND TO THE HULK, IT'S JUST ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY.
ONE TO BE EXECUTED...
...ALONG WITH HIS FOE.

OOOOOHHHHHHHH...
I'M... I'M SORRY, DARLA..
I JUST WANTED IT SO MUCH...
OH, THIS IS NOT GOOD. MAJOR LEAGUE NOT GOOD.
GREAT, DOOR'S JAMMED.
I SHOULDN'T REALLY BE MOVING YOU GUYS...NOT AFTER AN ACCIDENT...
...BUT IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, YOU'RE ON A TRACK.
TIMMY? CAN YOU HEAR ME, KIDDO?
AND WHERE THERE'S TRACKS, SOMETIMES THERE'S A...
...GREAT.

I WARNED YOU! I TOLD YOU TO BACK OFF!
...YOU BROUGHT ON YOURSELF!
EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU...
ARRRHHHH!!
STAY...
...DOWN!!

KID, C'MON! THIS IS REAL SERIOUS!
NO .NOTHING'S REAL NOTHING MATTERS
.NOTHING EXCEPT
...PITT...
OKAY...COME ON, LADY...LET'S GET YOU OUT, AND YOU CAN HELP ME...
HUH? YOU'RE NOT HIS MOTH--
FORGET IT. I'LL GET IT SORTED OUT LATER, IF THERE IS A LATER...
TIMMY!
AND THE JAMMED DOOR PICKS THAT PRECISE MOMENT...
...TO UNJAM.
457483
457483
DON'T WORRY.
I'M HERE. I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE...

THE HULK IS NOW STARKLY AWARE OF HOW IMPORTANT THE BOY IS TO HIS FOE.
HIS SLIGHTLY PERVERSE NATURE ALMOST PROMPTS HIM TO LET THE BOY DIE... JUST TO UPSET PITT.
HE CANNOT BRING HIMSELF TO DO IT.
THIS SOFTNESS ANGERS HIM...FOR IT MAKES HIM LESS THAN HE WOULD LIKE TO BE.
HE FEELS THE NEED TO PROVE SOMETHING TO HIMSELF.
INSTEAD HE CHOOSES THE MEANS...
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET THE BOY CLEAR OF THE TRACK.
...THAT WILL CAUSE MORE DAMAGE.
IT GIVES HIM SOME SMALL SATISFACTION.

TIMMY...
YOU SAVED... TIMMY.
THANK YOU.
AND HE LOOKS INTO THE EYES OF AN ALIEN BEING...
...AND SEES MORE HUMANITY THERE... THAN HE HIMSELF POSSESSES.
IT'S MORE THAN HE CAN STAND.

PITTSDALE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
IN THE MIDST OF A PREHISTORIC EXHIBITION, THEY BATTLE AGAINST THEIR OWN EVOLUTION.
PITT STRENGTHENING HIS HUMAN TIES, THE HULK LEAVING HIS BEHIND.
EACH ENVYING AND FEARING WHAT THE OTHER HAS. SEEING THE BEST AND THE WORST OF EACH OTHER.
EVERYTHING THAT THEY BOTH ASPIRE TO...AND FEAR THAT THEY COULD BECOME.

STAY BACK, KID!
NO... NOT THIS TIME...
...IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
...AND I'VE GOTTA MAKE A NEW DRAFT.
I MADE DARLA LOOK AND ACT LIKE MY MOM...AND THE HULK'S MOM.
BUT...BUT WHY...?
BECAUSE I COULD.
BECAUSE REALITY STINKS... AND I WANTED ONE I LIKED BETTER.
SO I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER ONE.

TIMMY!
TIMMY, I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU, BOY! WHY'D YOU WANDER OFF TO HERE?
JUST DOING SOME WOOL-GATHERING?
YEAH, GRANDPA. JUST THAT.
WHAT'S THIS EXHIBIT HERE?
SKULLS OF ANCIENT HUMANS CAUGHT IN A LAVA FLOW?
YUP.
ALWAYS IMPRESSES ME TO SEE STUFF LIKE THIS, TIMMY. MAKES ANCIENT HISTORY SEEM MORE...REAL SOMEHOW, Y'KNOW?
YEAH, GRAMPS. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN.
ELSEWHERE, DARLA HAILS A TAXI, NOT PARTICULARLY WONDERING WHY SHE'S IN A DIFFERENT SECTION OF TOWN...
TAXI
SHE ACCEPTS IT, AS A DREAMER DOES THE UNREALITY OF A DREAM.
AND SHE GOES HOME, TO THINK ABOUT CHILDREN...
...AND ALL THEY DEMAND OF ONE. MEANTIME, INSIDE PITTSDALE ORPHANAGE...

THAT WAS WEIRD...
HAVEN'T BEEN THIS CONFUSED SINCE THAT PHILOSOPHY CLASS I TOOK YEARS AGO...
...THE ONE WHERE HE TRIED TO TELL US THAT MAYBE ALL OF REALITY EXISTS AS SOMEONE'S DREAM.
THAT EVERYTHING IS SUBJECTIVE...NOTHING'S REAL...AND THERE'S WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS OF...HUH! TIMMY LEFT SOME BOOKS...
There was nothing left of the great cities.
The two generals had leveled everything that was between them.
And now nothing stood...except them.
From across centuries of hatred, they snarled at each other, for such was the enmity between General Hlk and General Pyt.
It had always been thus, since their first encounter.
Have you ever met someone... and taken an instant dislike to them?
LAST STAND ON
LAST STAND ON
PREHISTORIC LIFE
THE END

IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE...
Having Dale draw again for Marvel. Reunited with Peter. And me. Doing a hulk project. It's been a dream of mine and the whole Marvel bullpen for what seems like ages! And then having the project be a team-up with Dale's gargantuan gray guy and our green goliath is icing on the cake!
Thanks to everyone who worked on this, from the aforementioned, to the fabulous ones Dan Panosian, Steve Buccellato, Chris Eliopoulos, assistant editor extraordinaire Polly Watson, Ski and Carol Platt for internal help, and Phil Foxhoven, who brought this gem to us.
And thanks to all of you for reading!
--Bobbie Chase

STRENGTH VS. STRENGTH!
BAD ATTITUDE VS. WORSE!
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Reality Check

...STORIES.

NONE IN THE TRIBE KNOW FROM **WHERE** THE NEWCOMER HAS ORIGINATED. HE IS SIMPLY...THERE.

AND YET HIS ARRIVAL, ODDLY, IS **NOT** SURPRISING. IT HAS A CERTAIN AURA OF...

...INEVITABILITY.

AS IF THE TRIBE KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME. AS IF THE TRIBE'S VERY EXISTENCE--MOST PARTICULARLY, THE REIGN OF ITS LEADER--**DEMANDED** THIS MOMENT.

ON A DAY SO HOT THAT THE VERY AIR SCORCHES THE LUNGS, THE BEHEMOTHS STUDY ONE ANOTHER FOR AN INSTANT. AND THEN, WITH NO WORDS...BECAUSE NO WORDS **EXIST**...

...AND TAKEN AN **INSTANT** DISLIKE TO THEM?

THERE ARE SOME WHO BELIEVE THAT WE MOVE IN KARMIC CIRCLES THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, ENCOUNTERING THE SAME SOULS REPEATEDLY.

THAT WHEN WE REACT NEGATIVELY TO SOMEONE... WE ARE RECALLING ANIMUS LEFT FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE.

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